

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



## Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund Site, Power County, Idaho Simplot Plant Operable Unit

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

February 2009

## ***EPA to Amend Record of Decision Proposed Plan Out for Public Comment***

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing changes to the Record of Decision (ROD) that guides the cleanup of the Simplot Plant Operable Unit (Simplot OU). The ROD Amendment will add phosphorus as a major contaminant of concern and require additional pollution control measures and/or source controls at the Simplot Don Plant. This action is needed because the Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund site (the Simplot OU and to a lesser extent the FMC OU) discharges the largest amount of phosphorus to the Portneuf River than any other single known source.

### **Proposed Plan Available March 16 Comment Period Open**

**March 16 through April 15, 2009**

Beginning March 16th, you may send comments regarding the proposed ROD Amendment to:

Ms. Kira Lynch  
US EPA Region 10, ECL-113  
1200 Sixth Ave, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
or email: [lynch.kira@epa.gov](mailto:lynch.kira@epa.gov)  
Please put "Simplot ROD Amendment"  
in subject line

The 1998 ROD identified a number of contaminants of concern found in the groundwater discharging to the Portneuf River. The ROD concluded that a cleanup designed to meet federal drinking water standards for arsenic would sufficiently address all other contaminants of concern. This conclusion has proven

inaccurate for phosphorus releases to groundwater which later discharge to the Portneuf River. Simplot has been designing and installing a groundwater extraction system to address its arsenic releases. It will now have to also specifically address phosphorus concentrations. To address these concerns, additional source controls of the gypstack and in the plant areas are needed.

Some major components of the proposed plan's preferred alternative for the Simplot Plant OU are:

- Identification of phosphorus in groundwater as a contaminant of concern;
- Characterization of sources of contaminants at or near the phosphoric acid plant;
- Source control of phosphorus to the extent practicable;
- Installation of a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and environmentally designed liner on top of the gypstack to minimize the infiltration of process water through the gypstack and into groundwater;
- Continued development, operation, and maintenance of the groundwater extraction system to address arsenic and phosphorus concentrations above cleanup standards or levels of concern.

The proposed preferred alternative described in the proposed plan can be readily initiated, mitigates the threat of continued release of contaminants, and is expected to be consistent with the long-term remedial action that has been developed to date for all of the cleanup areas or operable units of the Eastern Michaud Flats (EMF) Superfund Site.

The proposed plan, this fact sheet and public meeting information will be posted on the EPA website by March 16, 2009, at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/emichaud>



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ETPA-081  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

Pre-Sorted Standard  
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U.S. EPA  
Permit No. G-35  
Seattle, WA

### Public Meetings

March 17, 2009	March 18, 2009
Pocatello City	Fort Hall Business
Hall Chambers	Council Chambers
Pocatello, Idaho	Fort Hall, Idaho
6:00 – 9:00 pm	6:00 – 9:00 pm

Written and oral comments will be accepted  
at the meetings.

### Information Repositories

Copies of the proposed plan will be available for  
review at the following locations by March 16, 2009:

Idaho State University Library  
Government Documents  
850 South 9th Avenue  
Pocatello, Idaho 83209  
208-282-3152

Shoshone-Bannock Library  
Tribal Business Center  
Pima Drive and Bannock Avenue  
Fort Hall, Idaho 83203  
208-478-3882

EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ECL-076  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-4494

If you have technical questions or for more information  
on the proposed plan, contact:

Kira Lynch, EPA Remedial Project Manager, at  
206-553-2144  
or toll free 1-800-424-4372, ext. 2144  
or email [lynch.kira@epa.gov](mailto:lynch.kira@epa.gov)

If you have questions about the public meetings,  
please call Sue Skinner at 208-282-4326 or email  
[skinner.susan@epa.gov](mailto:skinner.susan@epa.gov)

Alternative formats are available. For reasonable  
accommodations, please contact Sue Skinner at the  
number listed above. TTY users, please call the  
Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.